

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5, 6, 8, and 10-20.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for allegedly being anticipated by Johansson, U.S. Patent No. 5,587,685.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Goerke et al., U. S. Patent No. 5,698,973.

Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Goerke et al., in a view of Johansson, U.S. Patent No. 5,587,685.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 11-20 are allowed, and further that claims 9 and 10 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice, and so the rejection of claims 1-4 is moot.

Independent claim 5 and its dependent claims 6-10

Claim 9, which is deemed to be allowable, depends from claim 7. Claim 7, in turn, depends from independent claim 5. The subject matter recited in claims 9 and 7 have been incorporated into claim 5. Consequently, claim 5 is believed to be allowable. Claims 7 and 9 have been canceled accordingly. The dependency of claim 10 has been amended accordingly. Claims 5, 6, 8, and 10 are believed to be allowable.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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